



Dragon Medics



News and Information for members of the 44th Medical Command (Airborne)

March 2006

Commander's Message



BG Philip Volpe

Greetings! It is with much joy that we send this first edition of our new 44th Medical Command newsletter to you. It is intended for Soldiers, family and friends of the command. Our goal is to improve communications throughout the command and this newsletter is one tool to assist with accomplishing that goal. I encourage you to read it and to participate in providing information in future editions as well as making constructive suggestions for future improvements. This is your newsletter!

The 44th Medical Command is a "Team of Teams; Ready, Relevant and Reliable!" Every Soldier must be a team player --- one who contributes to the mission and who assists fellow Soldiers to succeed. It is important that every Soldier understands that our mission of providing health support anywhere in the world requires that we always be ready, relevant and reliable to those whom we serve --- our fellow Soldiers --- and those serving on freedom's frontiers around the world. Teams are built on trust; trust is built on caring; caring is built out of love and respect, which are both built on human dignity and character. I encourage you to build strong teams with your fellow Soldiers.

Ready: Individual and team readiness is critical to meeting our duties and responsibilities. Make every effort to be prepared --- to be ready. Readiness means total health and total fitness. Total fitness is: physical fitness, psychological fitness, spiritual fitness, family fitness, vocational fitness, social fitness, financial fitness and educational/developmental fitness. One must balance his/her health and well-being in all of these areas to get "fulfillment" in his/her life and to maintain "readiness" for the challenges of tomorrow.

Relevant: Our teams must remain relevant as time passes. To remain relevant means that we all need to change over time --- as individuals and as units --- because the world around us continually changes. Past solutions for yesterday's problems are rarely the solutions for tomorrow's challenges. We need to learn, grow and develop everyday in order to understand the contemporary operating environment and to be successful at functioning within it. Embrace change and be a part of the solutions for tomorrow. One must "re-invent" themselves from time to time so they can adapt to our changing world. Remain relevant and you will do well in all your future endeavors.

Reliable: All of us need to be reliable to ourselves; to each other (buddy system); and to our teams and our Nation. We live in challenging times which require extraordinary character, confidence and contributions. Being a reliable person to those around us {who work along side us}, and to the teams we are a part of, is critical to our success --- mission success and personal success --- as well as to our survival at times. We must always strive to be reliable to our families, to our friends, and to those we encounter everyday. Being reliable is at the very heart of establishing one's reputation among those who travel down life's paths with us.

I am looking forward to serving with you in the months and years ahead as part of this great 44th Medical Command team --- "a team of teams." I am very proud to be wearing this uniform. Like you, I am a Soldier. Like you, I am an American. Like you, I am a Human Being. And like you, I will be the best I can be everyday and strive for excellence in everything I do.

With much admiration and respect for you and your contributions to our Nation's defense, I say thank you. Thanks for all you do. Thanks for making the sacrifices so that future generations can live with hope and opportunity. Thanks for doing the "right things" and making the "good decisions." Thanks for serving. Please be safe! Take care of yourselves and each other everyday because your life is too precious to do otherwise.

Regards, BG Philip Volpe

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CSM's Message

All the way, Dragon Medics!

We have been very busy since our new commander joined the team in Dec 2005. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the job well done during the 44th MEDCOM change of command. You also did an excellent job on the 44th MEDCOM run held on 16 Jan 06. I know how hard it is to put these big events together, so I greatly appreciate everyone's efforts.

SSG Inez from the 261st ASMB, was recently inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. Congratulations to him and the mighty 261st!

Last, but not least, I would like to encourage all of you from our on-post units to become involved with the city of Fayetteville. There seems to be a large void of leadership within the community. I feel we have been given a great opportunity to fill these roles from the outstanding leadership within this command.

I am proud of each and every one of you and I am proud to be an American.



Airborne...All the Way!!

Important Phone Numbers

44TH MEDCOM STAFF DUTY:

866-666-3326

HHC, 44 th MEDCOM	910-396-9111
28 th CSH	910-396-7889
56 th MED BN	910-396-4390
32 nd MEDLOG BN	910-396-1653
261 st ASMB	910-432-9550
257 th DENT CO	910-396-7144
248 th VET DET	910-396-4145
14 th CSH	706-545-6837
86 th CSH	270-798-2812
6 th MLMC	301-619-7774
1 st AML	410-436-4857
9 th AML	410-436-7143
SGS	910-396-8599
DCSPER	910-907-3439
DCSOPS	910-396-4384
DCSLOG	910-432-8153
DCSIM	910-396-0078
DCSRM	910-396-3274
CLINICAL SERVICES	910-907-3406
CHAPLAIN	910-396-6178
RETENTION	910-396-4376
EO	910-936-8006
LEGAL	910-396-5060



60 Years of Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own...

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

The Army Emergency Relief (AER) is a private, nonprofit organization incorporated in 1942 by the Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff and has helped over 2.9 million Soldiers and their families over the past 63 years. AER's sole mission is to help soldiers and their dependents.

AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own". AER provides commanders a valuable asset in accomplishing their basic command responsibility for the morale and welfare of Soldiers by helping with emergency financial needs, such as for rent, funeral expenses, and medical expenses.

AER funds are made available to commanders having AER Sections to provide emergency financial assistance to soldiers - active & retired - and their dependents when there is a valid need. AER funds made available to commanders are not limited and are constrained only by the requirement of valid need. For these reasons, the AER assistance program is conducted within the Army structure by major commanders and their installation and organization commanders.

Visit <http://www.aerhq.org/> to learn more about AER or see your unit AER representative.





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44th Significant Activities



SSG Salvador Inez of the 36th ASMC became the newest member of the XVIII ABC Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. He was inducted on 24 Feb 06.



28th CSH set up and conducted their annual level III validation exercise from 6 through 15 February.

Upcoming Events

- **8-10 Mar** – 44th MEDCOM Soldiers will compete in the Expert Field Medical Challenge (EFMC) for the honor to attend the Army Medical Department EFMC.
- **14 Mar** – The Fort Bragg Officers' Club will host a free performance by the United States Military Academy (USMA) Glee Club and the 82d Airborne Division Chorus from 1400-1530 in the Lafayette Room. USMA Cadets will be available for informal questions concerning cadet life following the performance.
- **18 Mar** – Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic for the dogs and cats of the 44th MEDCOM. This event will be hosted by the 248th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) from 1000-1400 in the 28th CSH Compound (fenced area) on Gorham Street off Butner Road. Please have all animals on a leash. The DHLPP (Distemper, Adenovirus Type 2, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza) shot will also be available for dogs.
- **9-19 Apr** – TF28th CSH will conduct a Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) rotation in preparation for a future OIF deployment.
- **8-19 May** – 44th MEDCOM will participate in Ardent Sentry, a multinational exercise with NORTHCOM. The primary focus of the exercise is homeland security and disaster relief.



Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain's Thought For The Month

Doing the Impossible

A personal mantra that I often preach to my children, fellow soldiers, and parishioners is, "Keep doing the hard things and the hard things usually become easy things." It is often said that "practice makes perfect." Perhaps we could also say that "practice makes hard things become easier." In the Army, we call this the principle of "crawl, walk, run." Although many of us have been in the Army long enough to know this principle well, we probably need to remind ourselves occasionally that many of our young soldiers coming into the Army may not have been raised with a strong grasp of this concept. In my daily counseling with soldiers, I often find that many do not believe they can really get a college education, or run a five-mile run in forty minutes, or have a healthy marriage, or do the Army ten-miler. I am a firm believer that the more we can get soldiers involved in "crawling and walking," the more they will see that they can run. We can apply this to running, going to college, serving God, building healthy relationships, or leading troops. I firmly believe that living the process of "crawl, walk, run" in every area of life builds faith. It builds faith and confidence in the potential God put into each of our lives. And, it builds faith in what God can do through us as individuals and as teams.

"First, do what is necessary. Then, do what is possible. Very soon after that, you will find yourself doing the impossible."

--St. Francis of Assisi

Upcoming Events

National Prayer Breakfast 0700-0815

15 March, 2006 @ the NCO Club

• Post-wide Easter Sunrise Service 0700 @ Tolson Youth Center, 16 April, 2006

• Strong Bonds for Couples Marriage Retreat @ Myrtle Beach, 5-6 May, 2006

• Strong Bonds for Couples Marriage Retreat @ Myrtle Beach, 19-20 May, 2006

For more information, please contact:

SFC Evans @ 396.6178

CH (CPT) Mills or SGT Pennington @ 396.7011



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Reenlistments



SSG Kenya Gasque, 601st ASMC, is reenlisted in Iraq by 1LT Josephine Novak.



SGT Barry Stephens, 601st ACMC, is administered the Oath of Reenlistment in Iraq by 1LT Joseph Hill.



Reenlistments

Congratulations to the following Soldiers for reenlisting during the month of February:

SPC Erin Miller, 528th Med Det, SPC Joshua Carter, 57th Med Co, SPC Quentin Damron, B Co, 32nd Med Log, SSG Lottie Gibbs, 57th Med Co, SPC Eric Gainey, 57th Med Co, SSG John Peddleton, A Co, 28th CSH, SSG Gregory Sellers, 57th Med Co, SGT Hamidah Brown, 602nd ASMC, SGT Mira Velez, 274th FST, SSG Richard Stickels, 57th Med Co, SSG Manuel Paulino, HHD, 32nd Med Log, SPC Suzzanna Glowacki, B Co, 32nd Med Log, SSG Daniel Wallace, HHD, 32nd Med Log, SGT Todd Fuchigami, 36th ASMC, SSG Terrance Bandy, HHD, 261st

Retention News

I'm really excited about being able to provide you with the latest information available in the world of Retention.

First, let me give you an introduction of the 44th MEDCOM Retention Team. My name is MSG Michael Kouneski. Myself and SFC Andrea Graham are here to provide whatever assistance we can to help you and your families make a decision about your future in the Army.

Currently we are working off several Bonus Programs. We have money out there for Soldiers in certain MOSs, money for Soldiers in certain MOSs who reenlist to go to specific areas and of course, there is money for Soldiers who reenlist while deployed.

There is also an increased Bonus out there for many of our Soldiers however, this GOES AWAY on **1 May 06**.

A Soldier must meet the qualifications for each program to get a Bonus.

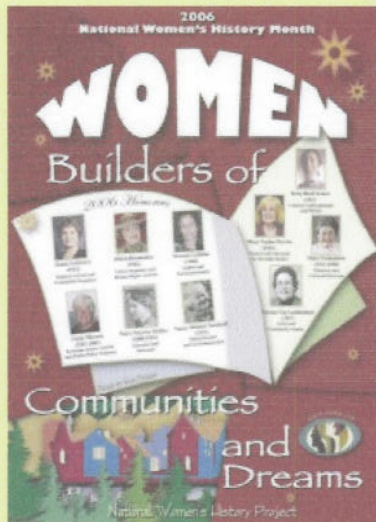
For more information please call myself or SFC Graham @ 396-4376/9855 or email michael.kouneski@us.army.mil and andrea.n.graham@us.army.mil

We look forward to hearing from you!



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Equal Opportunity



Upcoming Ethnic Observances March 2006 Women's History Month

This year's theme, Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams, honors the spirit of possibility and hope set in motion by generations of women in their creation of communities and their encouragement of dreams.

The theme honors women for bringing communities together and restoring hope in the face of impossible odds. Community comes in many forms, and dreams change,

expand, and are sometimes fulfilled.

The Women History Month Observance for the 44th MEDCOM will be held At York Theater 23 March 2006 1500-1600.

The

Event is open to everyone, so come out and support

All the great things that women have done to help build communities and dreams

April 2006

**"Days of Remembrance of Victims
of the Holocaust"**
2006 Theme:
"Legacies of Justice"



The Days of Remembrance Observance for the 44th MEDCOM will be held on 25 April 2006 1430-1600. Location TBA.

*44th Medical Command
Equal Opportunity Advisor:*

SFC (P) Pinkney

*Contact Information:
Office 910-396-8006
Cell 910-303-3877*

*"Respecting Diversity and
Maximizing Human Potential"*



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Personnel Highlights

Personnel Services Delivery Redesign

Personnel Services Delivery Redesign (PSDR), will be effective Aug 06. PSDR provides a roadmap for delivery of end-to-end personnel services. It proposes an evolution of personnel support system access and organizational structure to enable the delivery of services as close to Soldiers and commanders as possible. PSDR establishes the Battalion and Brigade S1 sections as the point for providing personnel services rather than the Personnel Services Battalions (PSB). PSDR eliminates the middle layer from Human Resources process and streamlines the ability of HR professionals to take care of Soldiers.

For more information, contact SGM Jacobs at DCSPER at 910-396-8883 or DSN 236-8883.

Did you know??

The Army's Military Evaluation Policy is changing to support the implementation of Electronic Evaluations. Read the Warning Order ([MILPER Message 06-047](#)) and check the Evaluations System website (<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/msd/esd/eso/eso.htm>) so that your unit or organization is ready.

Useful Website Links:

MyPay

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>

Human Resources Command

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/indexflash.asp>

Army Knowledge Online

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/login/welcome.html>

US Army Publishing Agency

<http://www.usapa.army.mil/>

Dragon Medic Athlete

At the 2006 Armed Forces Cross Country Nationals in Van Cortlandt Park, New York, the All-Army Women's Team took first place out of the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps, with 1LT Stephanie Feagin finishing in 5th place. The women raced an 8K on Saturday, 18 February 2006. The women's teams were made up of each service's top 5 runners (Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps), with the top 4 runner's finishing places being combined for an overall team score. The Army Women took the #1, #2, #3, and #5 spots overall, with only one other service member - Marine Corps - slipping in the #4 spot.

1LT Feagin is currently assigned to the 14th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) at FT Benning, Georgia as the Assistant S-3 (plans and operations). After graduating from the Officer Basic Course at FT Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX, 1LT Feagin held the positions of Ground Ambulance Platoon Leader with the 690th Medical Company, where she deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from April 2003 to March 2004, and Company Executive Officer. 1LT Feagin is originally from Cades, NC and is a graduate of the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC where she ran cross country.

The top five Armed Forces finishers in the women's 8K race qualified to go to Tunis, Africa for the 2006 Conseil International du Sport Militaire Championship (CISM) scheduled 1-5 Mar in Tunis, Tunisia. This is an international competition hosted by Tunisia, and countries from Europe and Africa will be competing in this race. 1LT Stephanie Feagin will be representing the Army in this competition, along with another Army officer and a Marine, Air Force, and Navy Representative.



1LT Stephanie Feagin, pictured on the left, with members of the All-Army Women's Team, after placing first in the 2006 Armed Forces Cross Country Nationals.



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: 498th Medical Company (Air Ambulance)



Unit History

The 498th Medical Company (AA) was constituted in the Regular Army as Company C, 57th Medical Battalion, on 13 January 1941 and activated on 10 February 1941 at Fort Ord, California. On 10 September 1941, the unit was reorganized and redesignated as the 498th

Collecting Company and, after serving in WWII, was inactivated at Camp Shanks, New York on 24 October 1945. The 498th was redesignated as the 498th Preventive Medicine Company on 11 September 1950 and activated on 2 October of that year at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The unit was reorganized and rededicated as the 498th Medical Company on 19 June 1953 only to be inactivated on 24 September 1956 at Fort Meade, Maryland. On 23 September 1964, the unit was activated as an air ambulance company at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and deployed to Vietnam. Upon return to the States in October 1971, the unit was relocated to Fort Benning, Georgia and has remained in service there to this day. The unit also participated in Operation Desert Storm, Bosnia and Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II. Unit citations include the Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Award and the Army Superior Unit Award.

Great Accomplishments

Congratulations to the following 498th Soldiers!

Retirees:

SFC Terry Andrews	1 Dec 05
SSG Isabel Archibeque	1 Dec 05
CW3 Robert Ragan	1 Jan 06
CW3 Thomas Shaffer	1 Jan 06
CW4 Gregory Dobbs	1 Feb 06
CW4 Robert Graber	1 Feb 06
CW4 Gary Fink	1 Apr 06

Selected for United States Coast Guard (USCG):

CPT Henry St. Germain, 498th Aviation Unit
Maintenance (AVUM) Platoon Leader

For questions and/or comments regarding this newsletter, please contact SGS at 910-396-8781 / 4684.

POC: CPT Robyn Klein (robyn.klein@us.army.mil)

The Latest and Greatest

The 498th Medical Company (AA) had a very eventful year. In March 2005, the unit redeployed for a second time from Operation Iraqi Freedom and turned its focus from combat to reconstitution operations to prepare the equipment and Soldiers for support missions throughout the United States. In July 2005, just four months after redeployment, the 498th assumed the aeromedical evacuation mission for Combined Joint Task Force Civil Support (CJTF-CS).



A Soldier of the 498th loads a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during a Field Training Exercise at Fort Bragg.

This mission requires the unit to maintain an immediate response capability for disaster relief throughout the United States. In August 2005, the 498th was called upon to provide medical evacuation disaster relief for the citizens of New Orleans and the surrounding area after the devastating effects of Hurricane

Katrina. Shortly after providing unprecedented support for this immense disaster, the 498th was called upon again in September to provide support after Hurricane Rita made landfall in the Gulf Coast region. For Rita, the 498th provided support in Texas as well as Louisiana. In all, the unit flew over 450 hours and rescued over 850 people in support to the hurricane operations.



2006 brings historic change for this decorated unit due to the Army Campaign Plan and Army Transformation. The unit will curtail operations on Fort Benning and move across Georgia to Hunter Army Air Field in June. On 15 July, the 498th Medical Company (AA)



will inactivate and activate on 16 July as C Company, 2/3 General Support Aviation Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division. The unit is currently anticipating this move with much excitement and preparation. Between now and the time for the move, the 498th will continue to provide top notch

medical evacuation support for the 44th Medical Command and continue to train for its life-saving mission. In March 2006, the 498th will undergo an External Evaluation at Fort Benning, the culminating event of a 12-month period marked by intense reconstitution, aircraft RESET, and historic support to the needs of our nations and it's citizens.